

Submitter:

Mariah Jacobs

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing in opposition of SB 210, intended to replace Oregon's main mail-in voting system with in-person voting.

Mail-in voting is convenient and accessible for ALL residents. It allows us the time and space to educate ourselves about our choices from the privacy of our own homes, at the hours that work for us. It allows us to return our ballots at the nearest mailbox or secure drop box, whenever best fits our varied schedules. It allows the elderly, disabled, single parents, night-shift workers, and those in rural areas to cast their vote without issues of transportation, work schedule coverage, disrupted routines, or child care.

Regressing to in-person election day voting as the standard method of voting is a step backwards and a clear attempt to suppress votes of groups of people who deserve to be heard just as much as the people who want to silence us.

If they're worried about election security? Great, let's work on making sure our ballot boxes are secure and fire retardants work as intended. Let's increase the number of security cameras or patrols near ballot boxes at election time. Do we need to call in the national guard to stand watch outside our ballot boxes in contentious areas?

Fine, that's a more acceptable alternative to mandated in-person voting. If proponents of SB 210 are worried about illicit ballots? Then let's have discussions about voter's registration and ballot curing, proposing solutions to make verification and approval of MAILED ballots more secure. Do we need more time, voter education, or staffing working on election integrity (registration process or ballot curing process) to ensure that legitimate ballots are counted? That's where the focus could be, not on needlessly overhauling a system that already works and works well for our state, yielding a voter turn-out consistently higher than the national average.

Point being: mandated in-person voting on election day is NOT the answer and, as an Oregonian, I refuse to go along with going backwards.